

(c) and (d) No special scheme has been sponsored by the Central Government to develop coconut and banana particularly in the cyclone affected districts as such. However, the ongoing schemes of (i) Integrated Development of Coconut Industry in India and (ii) Integrated Development of Fruits are being implemented in Orissa during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

MOUs signed in agriculture sector

2660. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of MOUs signed by the Ministry with various countries in the field of agriculture during the past three years;

(b) whether according to a newspaper report, recently a MOU for cooperation between India and Thailand in the field of agriculture are in the process of signing shortly;

(c) if so, whether the same has been signed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. B. P. B. K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The number of Agreements/Memorandums of Understanding signed by the Ministry of Agriculture with various countries for cooperation in the field of agriculture during the past three years (Financial Year 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000) is 17.

(b) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between India and Thailand for cooperation in the field of agriculture has been finalised.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The MOU is yet to be signed.